

Thoughts from Madonna Scholars, their Families and School Administrators
November 2007

"We are not put on this earth for ourselves, but we are place here for each other. If you are always there for others, then in time of need, someone will be there for you." Jeff Warner

As a Madonna Scholar, I have come to the realization that it is essential that we give back to our community. To profess my immense appreciation for the Madonna Scholarship, I realized that I am obligated to give back to others. Throughout my high school career, I have devoted hours of my time serving others. Notre Dame High School allowed me to recognize the significance of lending a helping hand. Through service, I have evidently impacted the lives of others shown through the smiles on their faces, but ultimately, I was serving God. Community service has enhanced the quality of my life. I'll assure you of this: I could not have possibly invested my time in any more beneficial way. The Madonna Foundation was the key that opened the door of opportunity in my high school career. After four years of receiving the Madonna Scholarship, a light bulb has finally flickered. When applying for this scholarship as an incoming freshman, I was blind to the fact that I was checking out the golden key of opportunity. I must have overlooked the section of the application that read: "Caution: A whirlwind of opportunities await you." In other words, I guess I did not read between the lines. I was initially granted the opportunity to attend a school renowned for its academic excellence and its diverse student body. This single opportunity flourished into many and the most vital of them being the opportunity to learn lessons that will direct me through all walks of life. Had I not attended Notre Dame, I may not have developed the number of qualities that I exhibit today. A young woman of service, determination, strong will, motivation, and a strong sense of appreciation. As I prepare to embark on my college journey, I will gladly return this key to the Madonna Foundation and wait for an opportunity as grand to come along in life. The next time you are faced with an opportunity, do not neglect it, but let it thrive within you. Do not turn it away because one opportunity can be the key that unlocks the many doors of opportunity. A thousand words cannot express the amount of gratitude and appreciation that I hold for the Madonna Foundation. If a human eye had the ability to perceive the measure of appreciation that dwells within me, it can recognize how grateful I am for this scholarship. I'll leave the Foundation with this note: Pass the key of opportunity down to the many other young women and continue to empower them with inspiration and plentiful opportunities for growth. Give the world the best you have and the best will come back to you. I wish to extend my thanks to Ms. Sisler and the Franciscan Sisters as well. May God bless you.

Good evening. I am a senior at Resurrection High School and I am here tonight to express my gratitude to the Madonna Foundation on behalf of myself and my family. I am sure everyone else in this room will be able to relate entirely.

I will start by giving you all an understanding of my family. I am the middle child of five. I have a brother who is 22 and a sister who is 20. My younger brothers are 14 and 11. All of us attended or are currently attending St. Bartholomew Catholic School. My older brother attended St. Patrick High School and my sister, Mother Guerin High School. The cost of the education of five children in Catholic schools is, by no means, cheap. In the past, I did not understand the point of investing such a significant amount of money in schooling. As I

am completing my education at Resurrection, however, it has become quite clear why my parents chose to go the route they did. Besides Catholic schooling, our secondary education was and is single gender. My eldest brother developed into a successful college student and will be graduating from the University of Dayton next week. He has grown to be an extremely well-rounded and caring person. I am able to see the effect of a single-gender school on him as well as on my sister and me. I can also illustrate the innumerable amount of benefits of attending an all-girls school. My sister and I have discussed on many occasions how wonderful our experiences have been at our high schools. She and I are major advocates for single gender schools because our experiences have been so wonderful. I am grateful for the equality that is seen among students at Res and the friendships gained at all-girls high schools. Not to mention, not having the distraction of boys. Besides these benefits, the quality of the education I have received has been excellent! I have been accepted to all five of the colleges and universities I applied to. I credit this success to my Res education. The courses offered to all students are outstanding. I firmly believe that I will have a great advantage when I attend college in the fall.

Attending a Catholic single-gender high school would not have been possible without the generosity of the Madonna Foundation. The scholarship has helped my family in more ways than imaginable. My family may not have been able to send me to Resurrection had it not been for the blessing of the Madonna Foundation. This scholarship has inspired me to one day support the education of other young women through the Madonna Foundation. The gift received from the Madonna Foundation is much more than an aid to tuition payments – it is the sum total of how I have grown and matured through these last four years. I will carry the result of the Madonna Foundation into my future. Thank you.

It is nearly impossible to succeed if you are not given an opportunity. Just when most of us thought we would have to settle for an average education at just any ordinary school, our minds were changed immediately. The Madonna Foundation came in and gave us each and every one of us an opportunity. It was an open door for all of us to have an equal chance, and use our strengths to our best ability to succeed. The Madonna Foundation has helped our families and relatives to see that we can have a bright future and succeed further in life, than what most others may have. I am sure many of us do not know where we would be right now, who our friends would be, or even what kind of environment we would be surrounded by if it was not for the Madonna Foundation. Our lives would be completely different, most likely for the worst. Through many years, Madonna Scholars from all over have succeeded and inspired others to follow in their footsteps. I plan on using the great opportunity that the Madonna Foundation has given me and I hope to encourage others to want to accomplish and achieve all that they can.

Good evening. The name listed on your program is that of my sister Alejandra. She is busier than she thought with a school project so she could not join us tonight. If she were here, though, she would have told you that she, too, is a Madonna Scholar and that her high school education at the Jo has prepared her to attend a four year college and to prepare for a career in elementary education.

But, I am here to share with you what my mother would say if she could speak fluent English. My mother, of course, wants the very best for her daughters and for all her children. She chose the Jo as our high school because she knew it would provide us with a wonderful education. But our financial situation is pretty tight, so having the opportunity to

have a Madonna Scholarship these past three years has been a real blessing for her, for me and for our whole family.

Being part of a special group, being called a Madonna Scholar, receiving the scholarship, participating in leadership activities, all of these things have put some of my mother's concerns to rest and helped me take advantage of the Jo's quality educational program. Through the Madonna Scholars Program, I have been able to become a confident, faith-filled leader.

Thank you to Ms. Sisler and the Franciscans from my mother, my sister and me!